

was increased by nearly two hundred. Among the number was Elias Thomas who later kept watch over our fire alarm system for twenty-eight years; tooting the terrifying gong on gravity engine No. 28 when he saw a light in the skies. This party of miners was brought here by the company from Wales as being experienced workmen. They were met in Philadelphia by Maurice Wurts and sent on here over the canal and railroad. It took two weeks to get to Carbondale from New York and Mr. Thomas had many terrible tales to tell of the ravages of cholera while on the canal boat.

Of course Carbondale was within the belt of the



FIRST COURT HOUSE.

great meteoric shower of 1833. The people here were affected as much as elsewhere and B. G. Roots, our first school teacher, just before his death at Duquoin, Illinois in 1888 told an anecdote illustrative of the times with which every Carbondalian was then acquainted. It concerned Mr. and Mrs. John Few who were well known citizens and ran as follows:

On the night of November 13, Mrs. Few awoke and seeing the showers of stars which were falling she exclaimed "John Few, John Few, I have told you over and over to collect the money that — owes us. You have neglected to do it and now the judgment day has come and that money is lost forever. He responded: "Alice Few, Alice Few, I did think you were a woman of more sense than to suppose that the judgment day would come in the night."

AN EARLY WEDDING.

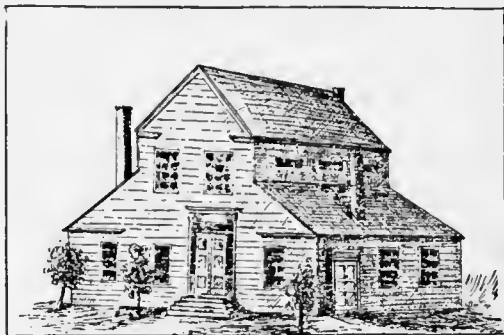
John M. Poore was born in West Newbury, Essex Co., Mass., on July 10th, 1808, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. L. Dickson, in Scranton, January 18, 1889. In 1829 he came to Carbondale where he engaged in the mercantile business. He re-

mained here until 1842 when he removed to Virginia. Returning in 1845 he became the senior partner of the firm of Poor & Mills who for many years were leading merchants of our city. Rev. J. H. Noble married Mr. Poor and Harriet Townsend here on February 9, 1831, and it was one of the first weddings in our infant village. At that time railroads and cars were not and livery stables did not exist. The snow was from 2½ to 3 feet deep, and the family sleighs of E. M. Townsend, Thomas Meredith, Gould Phinney of Dundaff and Thomas Clark of Canaan, were procured to take the bridal party to Forbes Hotel in Honesdale next day. The landlord had been notified a week beforehand and a party of twenty-two were right royally entertained on the occasion at his then famous hostelry. It was a memorable occasion and was the full extent of wedding trips in those days.

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

The Mansion House mentioned elsewhere was a pretentious building and the centre of much of the life of the town. It was equipped with a large ball room which was also used for entertainments of various kinds and might even be called Carbondale's first play house.

Carbondale was indeed proud when there was erected by S. H. Pierson on the



RESIDENCE OF DR. RAFFERTY.

site of the present Braner building on Church street a hall especially adapted to amusements. The Lacka-Citizen of September 13, 1850, says: "The dedication of Concert Hall proved a rich treat to an overflowing audience. We understand the 'Peak Family' pronounced it the best room in which they had sung since they left Boston. On the occasion the music of the Carbondale Brass Band elicited universal admiration. We are confident there are very few, if, indeed, any better bands in the State. The addresses by Rev. Mr.